

Please replace the sentence beginning on page 42, line 7, with the following rewritten sentence:

B3
-- More preferably, an antibody of the present invention preferentially binds an eight amino acid epitope having the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), or an eight amino acid epitope having an analog sequence of the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), the term "analog" as defined herein, of the EC RTP/DEP-1 ectodomain.

Please replace the sentence beginning on page 46, line 20, with the following rewritten sentence:

B4
-- A preferred target molecule comprises a polypeptide fragment of the EC RTP/DEP-1 ectodomain includes an eight amino acid epitope having the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), or an eight amino acid epitope having an analog sequence of the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), the term "analog" as defined herein.

Please replace the sentence beginning on page 47, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B5
-- A preferred target molecule comprises a polypeptide fragment of the EC RTP/DEP-1 ectodomain includes an eight amino acid epitope having the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), or an eight amino acid epitope having an analog sequence of the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), the term "analog" as defined herein.

Please replace the sentence beginning on page 48, line 4, with the following rewritten sentence:

B6
-- Preferably, an antibody of the present invention preferentially binds an eight amino acid epitope having the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), or an eight amino acid epitope having an analog sequence of the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), the term "analog" as defined herein, of the EC RTP/DEP-1 ectodomain.

Please replace the sentence beginning on page 49, line 17, with the following rewritten sentence:

B7 -- Preferably, an antibody of the present invention preferentially binds an eight amino acid epitope having the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), or an eight amino acid epitope having an analog sequence of the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), the term "analog" as defined herein, of the EC RTP/DEP-1 ectodomain.

Please replace the sentence beginning on page 51, line 12, with the following rewritten sentence:

B8 -- In one embodiment, a modulator of the present invention interacts with an eight amino acid epitope having the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1) of the EC RTP/DEP-1 ectodomain.

Please replace the sentence beginning on page 58, line 11, with the following rewritten sentence:

B9 -- Preferably, the EC RTP/DEP-1 ectodomain fragment comprises an eight amino acid epitope having the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), or an eight amino acid epitope having an analog sequence of the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), the term "analog" as defined herein.

Please replace the sentence beginning on page 59, line 4, with the following rewritten sentence:

B10 -- The kit comprises a binding agent comprising a polypeptide fragment of the EC RTP/DEP-1 ectodomain that comprises an eight amino acid epitope having the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), or an eight amino acid epitope having an analog sequence of the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), the term "analog" as defined herein, contained in a first container.

Please replace the sentence beginning on page 61, line 10, with the following rewritten sentence:

B11
-- Additionally, a modulator of the present invention can be screened for interaction with an eight amino acid epitope having the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), or an eight amino acid epitope having an analog sequence of the sequence n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1), the term "analog" as defined herein, of the ECRT/DEP-1 ectodomain.

Please replace the sentence beginning on page 78, line 7, with the following rewritten sentence:

B12
-- Finally, in the case of methotrexate or aminopterin, attachment is achieved through a peptide spacer such as L-Leu-L-Ala-L-Leu-L-Ala (SEQ ID NO: 2), between the γ -carboxyl group of the drug and an amino acid of the antibody.

Please replace the sentence on page 110, line 16, with the following rewritten sentence:

B13
-- The sequence of this peptide derived from the array is n-QSRNDEVL-c (SEQ ID NO: 1).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 and 9 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 14 as follows:

2. (Once Amended) An antibody that preferentially binds an ectodomain of the ECRT/DEP-1, or a fragment or derivative of the antibody.

3. (Once Amended) The antibody of claim 2, which preferentially binds an eight amino acid epitope having the sequence QSRDTEVL (SEQ ID NO: 1), or an eight amino acid epitope having an analog sequence of the sequence QSRDTEVL (SEQ ID NO: 1), of the ECRT/DEP-1 ectodomain.

4. (Once Amended) The antibody of claim 2, which is a monoclonal antibody or a fragment or derivative thereof.